

Dr. Reck also relates a case of the same disease cured by the use of animal charcoal.

A combination of assafœtida and phosphoric acid, in the form of pills, according to the plan of Rust, is recommended by Dr. Bötticher, of Sachsa, as a remedy in fistulous sores. An interesting case is reported of extensive sinous ulceration of the hip, occurring in a female thirty years old, completely cured by the above remedy in six weeks—laudanum was applied locally to the fistula. Neither the mode of preparing the pills nor their dose is given.

Cortex pruni padi is recommended by Dr. Rupprecht as a remedy in gout, in the form of decoction, made by boiling half an ounce of the root in four ounces of water, and then straining. The dose of which is a table-spoonful every two hours.

The mange occurring in cats is said to be capable of being communicated to the human subject.

A case of lameness from rheumatism, of three years standing, was cured by Dr. Schneider, of Sommerschenburg, by acupuncture in connexion with galvanism.

Two cases of the same affection were cured by Dr. Reinhardt, of Mühlhausen, by the use of liver-oil, (Ieberthran—train-oil?) in the dose of a table-spoonful, night and morning.

A case of scrofulous ophthalmia was cured by an extremely low diet, (die hungereur,) the patient at the same time taking one grain of calomel, morning and evening.

D. F. C.

XXI. *Chemistry, Meteorology, and the Function of Digestion, considered with reference to Natural Theology.* By WILLIAM PROUT, M. D., F. R. S. Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. Philadelphia, Carey, Lea & Blanchard, 1834, 12mo. pp. 307.

The above work constitutes the eighth of the Bridgewater treatises on the power, wisdom, and goodness of God, as manifested in the creation.

Though the treatise of Dr. Prout is written principally for popular use, it cannot fail, also, to recommend itself strongly to the attention of even the scientific reader. In relation to each of the subjects which it embraces, the author has presented a large mass of facts and leading principles, in a form, which, though extremely condensed, is nevertheless free from the least confusion or ambiguity, and calculated, in a striking manner, to promote the general object of the Bridgewater legacy.

It is principally, however, the last division of the treatise which renders it more particularly interesting to physicians; that, namely, which treats of the chemistry of organization, especially of the chemical process of digestion, and of the subsequent processes by which the various alimentary substances are assimilated to, and become component parts of a living body.

The views advanced by Dr. Prout on this branch of his subject, are somewhat novel, and explain, in our opinion, in a more satisfactory manner, or at least throw much more light upon the process of digestion and assimilation than those generally entertained by physiologists.

It would be impossible for us, without extracting the greater part of the

sixty-seven pages devoted to this portion of the treatise, to give any thing like a clear and satisfactory account of the facts and arguments adduced by the author in relation to it. This, however, is comparatively of little importance, as the work itself is within the reach of all our readers, to whose attention we earnestly recommend it; we might almost say, that without an attentive study of it, no person can have a clear view of the chemistry of digestion and assimilation.

In applying the term chemistry to the operations of the living organism, it is proper to observe that Dr. P. has been careful to distinguish between the processes of this vital chemistry and those which take place when inorganic matter is operated upon in our laboratories. His views, on this point, are in part beautifully explained in the following sentence.

"The means by which that peculiarity of composition and of structure is produced, which is so remarkable in all organic substances, like the results themselves, are quite peculiar, and bear little or no resemblance to any artificial process of chemistry. For example, we have not, in artificial chemistry, any controul over individual molecules, but are obliged to direct our operations on a mass, formed of a large collection of molecules. The organic agent, on the contrary, having an apparatus of extreme minuteness, is enabled to operate on each individual molecule separately, and thus, according to the object designed, to exclude some molecules, and to bring others into contact. In these processes, it may be conceived that the molecules thus appropriately brought together, and at the same time guarded from extraneous influence by the organic agent, are in virtue of their own proper affinities, sufficiently disposed to unite, without requiring that any new properties should be communicated to them. Hence, the organic agent, in its simplest state, may be viewed as a power which so controuls certain organic matters, as to form them into an apparatus by which it arranges and organizes other matters, and thus effects its ulterior purposes. Where the operations of this simple organic agent terminate, those of another and more effective organic agent may be supposed to begin, which, by carrying the general process of organization a step further, adapts the organized material for the operations of a third and yet higher agent. Thus, each new agent may be supposed to possess more or less controul over all those below itself, and to have the power of appropriating their services, until at length, at the top of the scale, we reach the perfection of organized existence."

D. F. C.

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**XVII.** *A Practical Treatise on Medical Jurisprudence, with so much of Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, and the Practice of Medicine and Surgery, as are essential to be known by Members of Parliament, Lawyers, Coroners, Magistrate, Officers in the Army and Navy, and Private Gentlemen, and all the Laws relating to Medical Practitioners with Explanatory Plates.* By J. CHITTY, Esq. Barrister at Law. First American edition, with notes and additions, adapted to American works and Judicial decisions. Part I. pp. 509. Philadelphia, Carey, Lea & Blanchard, 1835.

A work of this kind has long been a *desideratum*, for although, in consequence of the greater attention that has of late years been paid to medical jurisprudence, numerous treatises on this science are constantly making their appearance; they are, with few exceptions, calculated for the medical reader alone, and hence do not sufficiently explain the anatomical and physiological questions connected with the various points attempted to be elucidated. This is the